

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pending claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,348 (Tomishima). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As to claim 1, Tomishima nowhere teaches supplying a negative voltage to at least one deselected wordline while supplying a positive voltage to a selected wordline to program the selected wordline. Instead, Tomishima merely teaches providing a negative voltage to deselected wordlines during refresh operations. Nowhere does Tomishima teach or suggest providing such a negative voltage during programming operations. Claim 1 is further patentable as Tomishima nowhere teaches a non-volatile memory array. Instead, Tomishima is directed to a volatile memory, namely a dynamic random access memory (DRAM). Tomishima, col. 12, lns. 50-65. For at least these reasons claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over Tomishima.

As to claim 10, Tomishima nowhere teaches a decoder that includes a first transistor of a first polarity coupled to pass a negative voltage to a deselected address line and a second transistor of a second polarity to pass a program pulse if the address line becomes selected. Instead, Tomishima merely teaches that n-channel transistors N2 and N3 of a single polarity are present. Accordingly, claim 10 and its dependent claims are patentable. For at least the same reasons, claim 22 and its dependent claims are patentable. Claim 22 is further patentable as Tomishima nowhere teaches a non-volatile memory array, as discussed above.

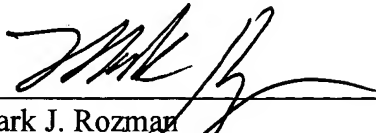
Claim 17 is patentable, as Tomishima nowhere teaches providing a negative control voltage to a substrate of a transistor coupled to pass a negative voltage to a deselected wordline. Thus claim 17 and its dependent claims are patentable.

New dependent claims 34-37 are patentable at least for the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 10 and 17, from which they depend.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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